Numb. 9.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, March 29. 1681.

Jeſt. A Very pretty Poetical Dictionary-Coxcomb! And muſt the Reader be every *Munday* obliged with a ſhow from the Young *Elephant?* Nay, then e'en farewell Bread and Honey!

Earneſt. What have you got there?

Jeſt. A moſt dreadful Divelogue; a *Batrachomyomachiachal* combat between *Comus* and *Momus*, in Engliſh, *Care* and his Brother *Monkey*. Here's a young *Elephant* too, Bleſs us all! what will become of us now?

Earn. A Mouſe, a Mouſe; we'l bait the Elephant with the Mouſe that was catcht eating the *Hamborough* Cheeſe, it will be better ſport than any at the Bear-garden, to ſee the little Animal make the great one run into a Mouſe-hole: There will be a Miracle too to ſee an Elephant in a Mouſe-hole, or a Mouſe-trap, it's all one.

Jeſt. Well, but that is not all: Here's more work for the *Dean*, writ by a Diſſenting man of mettal, that dreadful *Tom of the Wall*, that frights the Children, though he be nothing but a ſhadow of a man. I cannot imagine why they ſhould be ſo angry with the *Dean*.

Earn. Oh Sir! the *Dean!* He has ſo maul'd their old Friends the *Papiſts*, who, as they tell us, helpt them the laſt time to ſubvert the Government, that they were forc'd to take him off.

Jeſt. But that's foul play; two to one.

Earn. Fair or foul, what's matter? it will come all to a reckoning; it is for the ſake of *Conſcience*, and that can ſanctifie any thing; never talk of fair or foul. Mr. *Hobbs*, that Oracle of *Diſſenting*-Coffee-houſe States-men, ſays, *All Right to Dominion is founded in Power*; ſo that if the Elephant can beat the Mouſe, the Elephant has the right to the Cheeſe; but if the Mouſe can make the Elephant run for't, then the Cheeſe is his own, for *all right to the Creatures is founded in the grace of Power*: And as *Mahomet*, another Diſſenting Rabbi affirms, *Grace depends upon ſucceſs, and that upon Predeſtination, the irreſiſtible Decrees which are written upon every mans forehead.*

Jeſt. I do not like this Half-moon doctrine, I hate theſe *Mahometan* Horns in a mans forehead, they make a man look ſo like a Lunatick; and all that he has to ſay for himſelf, is, *Who can mend it* Dick? as the Boy ſaid when he broke his Pitcher.

Earn. It is no matter whether you like it or no, I aſſure you it is a very ancient doctrine: The Poet has it, *Proſperum ſcelus virtus vocatur*; which the Tranſlators of 42 rendred into *Engliſh*, *Luckey Rebellion is the true Proteſtant Religion*; and upon that ſcore all along ſtile themſelves the *Godly* and the *well-affected party*; and by vertue of that they *took the Land in poſſeſſion, and drave out the Wicked* and Malignant Loyalliſts and Church-men.

Jeſt. Well then, *He that's born to be hang'd ſhall ne're be drown'd*, and *he that's born under a three-penny Planet ſhall ne're be worth a groat*, are neceſſary points of Mahometaniſm.

Earn. Yes, and that *a man may be ſaved in any Religion*; and this is the reaſon that the true Proteſtant Mahometans are according to the Law of the *Alchoran*, (which for propagating Religions was in the late times tranſlated into *Engliſh*) ſo zealous for Toleration of all *Jews*, *Pagans*, *Turks*, and *Infidels*; if they have but a Conſcience, it is no matter of what colour or ſize it is, it muſt have *Liberty*.

Jeſt. Call ye me this, *Liberty?* muſt we draw it, ſay you, after the Copy of the Grand Signior? Pray God the *Property* which is always coupled with it, be not of the Turkiſh litter too, and for my part I like no ſuch *Properties*.

Earn. Like here or like there, I aſſure you the late Common-wealth-Reformation which hunted the King and the Church down with theſe two counterfeit Beagles of *Liberty* and *Property*, kept the true ones in chains. The *Liberty* of the Subject dwelt in the *Tower*, the *Fleet*, *Lambeth*, *Ely*, *Winchester*, and now *London* Houſes, and in all the Goals of *England*; and *Property* kept her Court at *Guild-hall*, attended by Thimbles, Bodkins, and Spoons, as her inferiot menial Servants; and Tankards, Candleſticks, Baſons, Salvers, Flaggons, and Diſhes of the higher ranks and orders; a ſplendid Court I promiſe you. She kept a Guard of Trained Bands, Volunteers, Standing Armies, Garriſons, and Navies for her ſecurity againſt Arbitrary Government, ſo ſhe did; and to preſerve the Subjects from Grievances and Illegal Taxations, under which they had long groaned, She took away Ship-money, and laid on the eaſie burthen of Contributions, Fifth and Twentieth-part Aſſeſsments weekly, monthly, yearly, and the ſmall Impoſition of Exciſe; and put the people to no trouble to pay them, but ſent abroad Baſhaws, Major-Generals, Committees, Sequeſtrators, and the inferior *Janizaries* to gather in her Fee-farm and Quit-rents among the Copy-holders that held their Lands and Livings *in Capite* of Her; and here was brave *Property* and *Liberty* indeed.

Jeſt. Well, you have managed theſe two to aſtoniſhment, but I have a Choak-pear for you: Here's a *Dialogue between Heraclitus and Towzer*, or *Death and the Cobler*; pray Mr. *Earneſt*, have you made your laſt Will and Teſtament, for you're a gone man, as one may ſay.

Earn. Sweet Mr. *Jeſt*, never the ſooner for a haſty word, I hope. Gone quoth'e! I am worth two gone ones yet: But pray what is this Choak-pear?

Jeſt.

Jeſt. What is it? I dare hardly lay my lips to it to tell you; it is a Hedg-hog, a Porcupine of a Pear; if you can ſwallow and digeſt this *Quere*, you ſhall eat Iron with the beſt Eſtrich in St. *James's*.

Earn. Prithe let's ſee it; if it were old *Ariſtotles* Terrible of Terribles, you could not make more faces at it.

Jeſt. Well, I'l wink and tell you, for I am affraid it is a Bird of the Comet-egg, laid by *Ben. Harris's* Hen-Cockatrice. *Whether the ſetting up of a Popiſh Succeſſor be the true way of Eſtabliſhing the Church of* England? Are you dead or alive, Mr. *Earneſt?* for till I hear you open your mouth, I am reſolved not to open my eyes.

Earn. Alive, and alive like; come if this be all, you ſhall ſee I'l give him a *Rowland* for his *Oliver*.

Jeſt. A blind man would be glad to ſee that.

Earn. Then look you Sir, I muſt anſwer the *Sir Invencible-would-be* with a Queſtion; *The Eſtabliſhment of the Church of* England, *is it of Heaven or of Men?* Let him anſwer that if he can or dare; that's a bold defiance: If he ſays of men, he muſt be an Atheiſt, or a Papiſt, who are wont to call our true Proteſtant Church of *England*, a *Parliament-Church and Religion*. If he ſays it is of God, as he muſt, if he be not one or both of the aforeſaid Gentlemen, he muſt know it is Eſtabliſhed upon ſuch a foundation as neither Popiſh, nor Pagan, nor Mahometan, nor Commonwealth Succeſſor, no nor the *Gates of Hell*, *or* Rome *ſhall ever be able to prevail againſt it.* It may be perſecuted as it was under the Pagan Emperors, it may be laid in the duſt; as it was by the prevailing Proteſtant-Diſſenters; but all the art and malice of Men and Devils can never alter the Foundation and Eſtabliſhment of it.

Jeſt. What's all this noiſe for then?

Earn. Come I'l tell you honeſtly and plainly, for it is no time to be mealy-mouth'd, they'l ſay we have been in the Meal-tub if we be. Here are a pack of factious Anabaptiſtical ſcribling Pamphleteers, who cannot be content to leave the matter of Succeſſion to thoſe whom it does concern, but they muſt be States-men an't ſhall pleaſe you, and appoint Succeſſors to Kingdoms; and every man that is not as mad and inſolent as they are, is preſently to be branded for ſetting up a Popiſh Succeſſor; as if the Deſtiny of Princes, and the diſpoſal of Crowns, depended upon the breath of theſe little Inſects and vermin of mortality! a preſumption ſo great, that nothing but their being ſo inconſiderable could be able to protect them from infamous puniſhments; but let them have a care, and even *Care* himſelf; for though Eagles do not quarry upon Flies, yet if Flies will be medling with Royal Eagles, they may fall under the pounces of the Law, and be forc'd to render up their little impertinent lives to Juſtice ſooner than they would.

Jeſt. Well I find this is no jeſting matter, and ſo I'l leave you.

Earn. Pray hear me out. This is the moſt malicious deſign in the world againſt the Church of *England*, to charge her with a deſign of ſetting up a Popiſh Succeſſor, and intended only to enrage the People againſt her, that ſo this Anabaptiſtical and factious Crew may pull her down, and finiſh what the Jeſuits have begun. They have confeſſed they were over-acted by Jeſuits and Prieſts in diſguiſe once before, and it is ſworn againſt them that there were ſeveral deputed by that Helliſh Order of *Loyola*, to herd with Nonconformiſts, and teach them the doctrine and trade of Faction and over-turning Governments. The Church of *England* would be glad of the Favour and Protection of Princes: But it is her Glory which they would make her Crime, that according to the Apoſtolical Doctrine and Primitive practice, ſhe will not purchaſe this outward Eſtabliſhment at the rate of Diſobedience to Kings, and over turning Empires. She leaves all thoſe Doctrines of depoſing and murdering of Kings, and diſpoſing of Crowns and Scepters, under the pretence of Eſtabliſhing the Church and Religion, to the *Pope*, *Jeſuits*, *Munſter* and *Geneva*-Chriſtians; and thinks it better to ſuffer Perſecution for Conſcience ſake, than under pretence of Conſcience to eſtabliſh Religion by Rebellion, and is no more concerned for the Succeſſion of a *Decius*, or a *Maximinus*, than a *Titus*; ſo as to indeavour to alter it by the leaſt unlawful act, tho it carries the proſpect of the greateſt future good. And I cannot imagine with what ſpirit of impudence theſe Fellows are poſſeſſed, to charge the Church of *England* with a deſign of ſetting up a Popiſh Succeſſor, when they do ſo conſtantly preach Obedience to the King and his Subordinate Miniſters, and in this point acquieſce in the Determination of their Superiors. They may with as much juſtice and modeſty challenge Chriſt and his Apoſtles with the guilt of ſetting up Pagan, and perſecuting Succeſſors, becauſe they did not Commiſſion Chriſtians to Preach, Write, and Fight them down. But the Snake that lies hid in the graſs is this, they have a deſign againſt this Innocent Church, and fix this upon her, to have a popular pretence to ruin her and pull her down, as guilty of ſetting up a Popiſh Succeſſor, and all the Conſequences which they have built upon it. But we have ſeen that a Popiſh Succeſſor nor a Common-wealth-Succeſſor have been able to ruin the Church of *England*; and her Innocence, as it is her Glory, ſo it will be her Protection, and will in a little time make her triumph over all her Enemies. And becauſe this impertinent Dialoguer ſhall ſee that Truth dare ſhew her face, and will not paſs over in ſilence a thing ſo eaſily to be illuſtrated, I preſent him with a few *Queries*, which I fear will be eaſier paſſed over in ſilence, than illuſtrated by him, unleſs he intends to be an illuſtrious Pear, and dangle upon a Choak-pear-tree.

1. Whether ſecuring the Succeſſion to the D. of Y. with whom he is ſo bold, and which he maliciouſly charges as a Deſign upon the Church of *England*, in order to her Eſtabliſhment, be not ſuch a reflecting *Scandalum Magnatum*, upon the Houſe of Peers, as may coſt him his Ears, his Liberty, and his little ALL, with which he ſets up for a State-Cobler?

2. Whether if the Church of *England*, which he ſays is for ſecuring the Succeſſion to the D. of Y. were treated according to his deſires, and diſabled, his Majeſty and the Monarchy would not be reduced to the ſame condition they were by thoſe true Proteſtant Diſſenters, who firſt trampled upon the Mitre, and then upon the Crown?

3. Whether this little Finder has not done us a kindneſs, by ſpending his mouth upon the right ſcent, and given us to underſtand what game is to be hunted down under the pretence of a Popiſh Succeſſor?

4. Whether the late Houſe of Commons were for ſecuring the Succeſſion to the D. of Y. becauſe according to Law they prayed daily for him as the Church of *England* does, and made no *proviſo* againſt it?

5. Whether there be any ſuch thing as a *Scandalum Magnatum* in force in *England*, and whether the D. of Y. may have any benefit by it againſt the inſolence of the Knights of the *Grey* Gooſe-quill?

Jeſt. Pray let me edge in my *Quere* 6. Whether I am not as patient as *Griſſel*, to hear all this ſerious and ſober debate?

Earn. There's no trifling can be allowable upon ſuch a ſubject, and if I have treſpaſſed upon your more pleaſant inclinations you muſt charge it upon the ſcore of Neceſſity; and the inſolence of theſe Scribblers, who have forced us upon ſuch a Theme, as too nearly concerns us to handle it with light or ſportive and humorſome managery. But I'l indeavour to make you a Recompence the next time I ſee you.

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London, Printed for *B. Tooke,* 1681.